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[No. 9 of 1877.]

REPORT ON NATIVE PAPERS

FOR

The Week ending the 3rd March 1877.

WE extract the following from an editorial in the *Sádháraní*, of the 18th February, headed the "Russophobia of the Government, and our ruin." A ruler, constantly haunted by a fear of invasion from a powerful foreign foe, is sure to forget all other affairs of his kingdom, and to be always busy in organizing a defence. Now this is exactly the state of matters in India at the present day. It is only because such subjects, as the education of the people, the introduction of amicable relationships between landlords and tenants, or the deliverance of large numbers from the horrors of famine, must be occasionally dwelt upon, in honor of the nineteenth century, that any reference is at all made to them by our Governors. But the heart is set on other objects. The earnest desire is to do something that shall convince the Russians of our power, and check, at least for some years to come, their notes of defiance from beyond the Caucasus. The second son of the Empress came to India, and there were illuminations. The object, of course, being indirectly to set before Russia an exhibition of the loyalty and devotion of the natives to the British throne; and thus warning her to recede and not advance. The warning was unheeded. Russia continued to advance. A similar warning was repeated as soon as the Prince of Wales landed here; but it was equally unheeded. Nay, more, the enemy began to intrigue. It was given out, that the Mahomedan Government of Turkey committed fearful oppressions on its Christian subjects, while, at the same time, the inhabitants of some of the subject provinces were incited to revolt against that power. The English Minister perfectly saw through all this; and two clever persons were sent off in two different directions. Lord Salisbury, to understand and explain the condition of Turkey, and Lord Lytton, to do the same with regard to Russia. Detachments of the army were posted—some in the Mediterranean, others on the Peshawar frontiers. We cannot tell how far Lord Salisbury was successful; or, whether the pride of the Turks was not fomented by his counsels. We, however, have witnessed with our own eyes, to some extent, the preparations made by Lord Lytton to strike terror into the minds of the Russians, and can guess the meaning of the presence of an army at Attock. To us, however, it would have mattered little if the British Government had rested at this point; but its attention is gradually becoming absorbed with great men; and it has very little thought to bestow on us, the common people. This reflection cuts us to the quick.

SADHARANI,
February 18th, 1877.
Circulation about 516.

2. The same paper points out that the several Associations, recently established in this country, may well serve one important purpose, that of encouraging virtue and merit in private individuals. This may be done by

SADHARANI.

conferring titles of distinction, expressive of the civic virtues of the recipient. Thus one may have the title of the "munificent," &c.

SADHARANI,
February 18th, 1877.
Circulation about 516.

3. The same paper deplores the indifference shown by natives to the important subject of education, which is allowed to be regulated by a department, that is not acquainted with the needs of the people, and has withal self-interests to subserve. This accounts for the unfitness shown by a native lad for the practical business of life after he has left college, where his time and attention have been occupied with the most unprofitable studies. If we take, for instance, the study of the English language and literature, as conducted in the colleges at the present day, it will be seen that a native lad, while there, is taught a deal of stuff, which will be utterly useless to him in after life, Greek and Latin roots, Spanish and Danish roots, the writings of the Saxon chroniclers, and subsequently the Highland slang, which Scott has put into the mouth of the low characters in his novels. His college education being finished, as he is to enter upon the duties of life, he finds that he is unable properly to write an English letter, and cannot understand why the newspapers should abuse, and the Europeans laugh at him. It is, indeed, sad to think how the best years of a man's life are thus misspent, making him really unfit for his future duties. The people should be up and doing. The Education Department needs a thorough reform.

HOWRAH HITAKARI,
February 18th, 1877.
Circulation about 300.

4. The *Howrah Hitakari*, of the 8th February, deprecates the imposition of an income tax, which is already spoken of as a probable event. The depressed condition of the Indian Exchequer, brought about by the heavy outlay on the Imperial Assemblage, and by the occurrence of famines and pestilence, affords indeed grounds for such a conjecture; and the wisdom of meeting the probable deficit by opening a loan is also questionable. But, notwithstanding the reasons which might appear to justify the imposition of an income tax, it is not sound statesmanship, to introduce any direct taxation into a country, where the poverty of the people makes them exceedingly opposed to it. The only feasible course then open to Government is to levy a duty, or increase it, where one already exists, on articles of daily consumption, such as tobacco and salt. Spirituous liquors also might be taxed with profit.

HOWRAH HITAKARI.

5. The same paper offers the following suggestions for the consideration of the members of the Jail Conference. The cruel treatment of short-term prisoners in jail is one which should receive attention. Reformatory schools should be opened in different parts of the country, and not one only at Alipore. The same person should not be both the Superintendent of a Jail and its medical officer. Natives should be appointed to the work of superintendence; economy and efficiency will be both secured in this way. European Superintendents might, however, be retained in the Alipore and Hazareebagh Jails.

HOWRAH HITAKARI.

6. The following points are submitted for the consideration of the Railway Conference. Means should be used to secure communication between the passengers and the guard while the train is in motion. This is necessary to the safety of the native passengers, many of whom are averse to traveling in a second-class carriage for fear of insult from Europeans. The most effectual steps should be taken to prevent any abstraction of goods from the vans; and increased advantages should be offered to mahajuns for transporting their goods, especially for loading and taking delivery at any intermediate station. And, lastly, Government would do well not immediately

to take over the management of the East Indian Railway from the hands of the Company, who are doing their work more satisfactorily than could have been expected from Government. Natives should be largely employed on the Railways.

7. We take the following from an article in the *Bhārat Sangskārak*, of the 19th February, headed "Assam and its tea-gardens." Not a few Europeans have grown rich from the tea-industry, which has for a long time past existed in Assam. The people of this country believe that wherever Europeans settle, whether in the discharge of public duties or in the pursuit of commerce, there is some improvement or change. We shall see what progress Assam has made from the presence of a large number of Europeans, both official and non-official.

BHARAT
SANGSKARAK,
February 19th, 1877.

It is a noble feature of the British rule, that education spreads wherever it is introduced. But Assam cannot, we fear, boast much of this privilege. Its only high school has been abolished. The province has now been for about three years under a Chief Commissioner, but what progress has it made? It is a non-regulation province; and its judicial service is mostly recruited from the army. This itself might serve to show how justice is administered, and the dignity of truth upheld in Assam. There is no public opinion and no newspaper published here. The only advantage, which has resulted from the severance of Assam from Bengal, is experienced by a number of European officers, who spend their time on the Shillong Hills without any fear of reproof. Undisturbed in their pursuits, the planters also are having a happy time of it. Perhaps Government does not like to apply the law with respect to them, from a consideration of their services in reclaiming waste lands and from a feeling of partiality. No good can be expected from planters. The tea-industry has, indeed, increased the export traffic of Assam to some extent, but it has brought little good, and a great amount of evil, especially on the cultivating classes, who, being engaged to labor on the plantations, have neglected their proper calling, the production of food-crops, which are materially injured. It has ruined the other agricultural pursuits of the province. While the population is on the increase, and there is a large influx of laborers from other parts of India, the supply of food is diminishing from want of cultivators.

8. The *Sambād Bhāskar*, of the 19th February, directs the attention of all district authorities to the need of exercising a strict supervision over the work of the punchayets, which have now been appointed in many districts in the mofussil. Care should always be taken in the matter of their appointment also. The unsatisfactory manner in which work is done by these bodies in many places has been productive of grave complaints, especially in regard to unjust assessments.

SAMBAD BHASKAR,
February 19th, 1877.

9. The same paper regrets to notice that, while in Bombay a native has been elevated to the Joint-Judgeship of Nassik, a post hitherto held by Civilians, no such favor has as yet been granted to Bengal, though it was promised long ago. It behoves the new Lieutenant-Governor to exert himself in this matter.

SAMBAD BHASKAR.

10. The same paper points out that the system of trial by jury, which obtains in all civilized countries, and which has also been introduced by Government into India, is quietly set aside by the provisions of the Criminal Procedure Code; which make it competent to Government to prefer an appeal to the High Court against an order of acquittal, which may be passed on an accused by a subordinate court. In such cases, the High

SAMBAD BHASKAR.

Court is not aided by a jury; and its judgment supersedes that of the lower court, which was so aided. The operation of the Criminal Procedure Code has thus rendered the system useless, and brought a principle into operation which is dangerous to the liberties of the subject, and not suited to the circumstances of Bengal in this century. The Code has many defects which it will be doubtless ere long necessary to remove.

SAMBAD BHASKAR,
February 19th, 1877.

11. The same paper observes, with regret, that the influence of Sir John Strachey on the deliberations of the Viceroy has been the cause of the heartless policy which the present Government has laid down for the guidance of those who are appointed to administer relief in the Bombay and Madras Presidencies. While Her Majesty is assuring the British Parliament of her deep sympathy for the sufferers, her Indian Government is distributing the most scanty doles of grain, and even those not on Sundays! The consequence of all this is, that the country is fraught with misery, and echoes with the wails of the sufferers.

HINDU RANJIKÁ,
February 21st, 1877.

12. The *Hindu Ranjiká*, of the 21st February, remarks that, among other qualifications requisite to make a good judge, respectability of birth should be one of the chief considerations which should influence Government in selecting candidates for the Judicial Service. Unfortunately, however, this is often overlooked at the present day; and the consequence is, that there is an abuse of power made by men, whose only claim to their position depends on their success in a particular examination.

BHARAT MIHIR,
February 22nd, 1877.
Circulation about 650.

13. The poor sun-burnt ryot, who contributes his hard-earned gains to the Indian Exchequer, may well ask, says the *Bhárut Mihir*, of the 22nd February, what good has come of the Imperial Assemblage? What answer will Government give?

BHARAT MIHIR.

14. The same paper dwells on the injustice of maintaining a State church in India, where the people follow different religious creeds, for the benefit of only a small sect of Christians. The subject of religion is one which concerns the individual alone; and nothing but evil will result from any interference of Government.

BHARAT MIHIR.

15. Adverting to a speech made in England by Mr. Phear, lately a Judge of the Calcutta High Court, on the desirability of appointing natives to the superior offices in this country, the same paper remarks:—It is to be regretted that, in spite of the favourable opinion entertained of the worth of educated natives by the Judges of the High Court, men who have every opportunity of testing their merits, Government still hesitates to abandon its narrow minded policy respecting their appointment. We have repeatedly remarked that such injustice does not become the free and liberal English nation. Justice has, however, been promised, but not carried out in practice. We beseech Government to give us a fair trial.

BHARAT MIHIR.

16. Referring to an important case recently tried by the High Court, in which the power of Government to withdraw territories from the jurisdiction of that Court was called into question, the same paper gives an account of the way in which the Maharajah of Susanga Dureapore was deprived by Government of the Garo Hills, and points out the evils of hasty legislation which obtains at the present time. Government is besought to restore the hills to the Maharajah.

BHARAT MIHIR.

17. This paper remarks that the amended Civil Procedure Code Bill has disappointed the public. We have stated our objection* to the sections relating to the execution of decrees, that they are unduly stringent on creditors, and have a tendency to impede the free circulation of capital. We

* See paragraph 6 of our Report of the 10th February 1877.

now object to that part where it is laid down that a defaulting contractor may be imprisoned, and the contract also carried into effect. This cruel provision is opposed to the spirit of the times, and, in India, will be productive of extremely injurious consequences by encouraging oppression and aggravating the misfortunes of the weak. Another objectionable feature of the Bill is, that it makes a distinction of black and white, by laying down that suits against public officers will only be tried by District Judges, thus limiting the jurisdiction of Subordinate Judges and Moonsiffs. Government has repeatedly testified to the worth and ability of these officers; yet, in practice, they are distrusted and lowered in the estimation of the people.

18. A correspondent of the *Education Gazette*, of the 23rd February, writing from Paramánandakáti, a village in the Jessore district, dwells on the extreme inconvenience occasioned to the inhabitants from a want of good roads between that place and the adjacent villages; and beseeches Government to direct the repairs of the road from Kaligunge to Jessore, and the construction of another from the Road Cess Fund. A tank should also be excavated here.

EDUCATION GAZETTE,
February 23rd, 1877.
Circulation about 1,168.

19. The *Pratikár*, of the 23rd February, notices the deep sorrow which has possessed the minds of the people of Moorshedabad by the proposal of the Education Department to abolish the Berhampore College. It is hoped that the authorities will not take this extreme step without further consideration. It is a mistake to suppose, that the results of the University Examinations are at all a proper test of the quality of the work performed in a college.

PRATIKAR,
February 23rd, 1877.
Circulation about 235.

20. The *Moorshedabad Pratinidhi*, of the 23rd February, observes that the bribery and corruption, which prevail among the omlah of the law courts, are in a great measure due to the low salary allowed, them which does not suffice to meet their requirements. If, therefore, Government be really desirous to put a stop to this evil, all grounds of temptation must be removed by raising their pay.

MOORSHEDABAD
PRATINIDHI,
February 23rd, 1877.

21. In noticing the rumour that an income tax is likely to be imposed, the *Grámbártá Prakáshiká*, of the 24th February, remarks, that the imposition of this tax, when the road cess is already in existence, will be a source of considerable hardship and difficulty. We would, however, prefer the income tax to the road cess. The former affects the rich and the Europeans; the latter only the poor cultivators of the soil.

GRAMBARTA
PRAKASHIKA,
February 24th, 1876.
Circulation about 200.

22. The *Hindu Hitoishini*, of the 24th February, observes that, while admitting the fact that the people enjoy a great many of the blessings of civilized Government under the British rule, it cannot be denied that in some respects their condition compares rather unfavourably with what it was under Mahomedan rule. Of these, two are the most prominent, (1) the large number of taxes, and (2) the difficulty of earning the means of livelihood. Both these causes have impoverished the country and made the people miserable.

HINDU HITOISHINI,
February 24th, 1877.
Circulation about 300.

23. The same paper dwells on the need of enacting a law on behalf of large estates, which may be divided among many co-sharers or let out in putnies and dur-putnies. Such estates are frequently put up to auction for arrears of revenue from the failure of the putneedars and other under-tenureholders to pay their rents in time, so as to enable the proprietor to meet the Government demand.

HINDU HITOISHINI.

24. The *Dacca Prakásh*, of the 25th February, complains that the relief granted to the sufferers from the famine in the Bombay and Madras

DACCA PRAKASH,
February 25th, 1877.
Circulation about 300.

Presidencies is extremely scanty, and the wages of labor very low. It is also sad to notice that Sir Richard Temple refuses relief to those who have property of any sort and will not work. This may at first sound well—but a little reflection will show its real character. Members of respectable, though poor, families, and females would rather die of starvation than accept relief on such conditions. It would be well if Government were to grant them loans, by holding in mortgage their property. For, if they are obliged to sell it, they would raise but little.

DACCA PRAKASH,
February 25th, 1877.
Circulation about 300.

25. Adverting to the proposal, made by Sir Richard Temple, and noticed in the last Administration Report of Bengal, to increase the number of districts under the Lieutenant-Governorship, with a view to secure just promotion to civilians, the same paper points out that the creation of some sub-divisions, and not districts, is all that is needed. The latter plan, if carried out, will involve less expenditure, while it will remove to a great extent the inconvenience experienced by the public. It is hoped that the promises made in the Report, regarding the elevation of natives to superior offices in the public service, will not be allowed to become a dead letter.

SOMA PRAKASH,
February 26th, 1877.
Circulation about 700.

26. The *Soma Prakásh*, of the 26th February, has the following remarks, in an article on the system of summary trials, and the Honorary Criminal Benches: Sir George Campbell invested Magistrates with summary powers with a two-fold purpose. The one was to have the trial of petty criminal cases accomplished in a short time, and thus preventing unneeded expense; and the other, to increase the authority of the executive by vesting them with almost unlimited powers. Little attention was, however, paid to secure the ends of justice. It was not the habit of Sir George Campbell to take action, after a deliberate and full consideration of a subject in all its bearings. He would do what came uppermost in his mind; and he probably had a conviction that the executive officers were not, in the discharge of their duties, liable to be swayed by any passion or prejudice; and he rarely sought any opportunity to verify his belief. But, as far as we know, from a practical acquaintance with the subject, we are able emphatically to assert, that the disposition of the majority of these officers does not correspond with the above description. They are exceedingly despotic, averse to law and reasoning, and indifferent to the amenities of life, care nothing for the honor and dignity of the subjects, and under the influence of passion may throw these overboard, and act quite arbitrarily. Who will say that the almost unlimited powers, conferred on the Magistrates, afford no just ground for apprehensions, considering the treatment Baboo Lall Chand Chowdhry, a Municipal Commissioner of Chittagong, received at the hands of Mr. Kirkwood? That respectable zemindar was appointed a special constable to guard the public latrines. Perhaps no thinking person will be prepared to say that the ends of justice can be at all promoted by entrusting such rash and inconsiderate officers, so wanting in a knowledge of right and wrong, with the task of deciding summary cases.

As to the benches composed of Honorary Magistrates, it may be observed that they possess little liberty of action, and are but so many indifferent spectators of the trial. We do not know what may be the object of Government in thus asking men to serve as Honorary Magistrates without allowing them any liberty of action. It is next to useless. How long will the authorities seek to keep the people contented with these shadows?

SOMA PRAKASH.

27. We extract the following passage from the same paper, commenting on the memorial of the British Indian Association to the Viceroy on

the case of Baboo Lall Chand Chowdhry and Mr. Kirkwood of Chittagong :— The assertion, so frequently made by our rulers, that they never act contrary to law, is seen to be utterly groundless, when we contemplate the illegal acts of Mr. Kirkwood, and the arbitrary treatment which Baboo Lall Chand experienced at his hands. We are at such moments led to question the use of the legislative councils, the maintenance of which costs so much to India; and the equally expensive offices of Viceroy and Lieutenant-Governor. For what is the use of them when the officers in the mofussil are all in all? They are the Viceroy and the Lieutenant-Governor; they are the legislative councils; their orders are law, and their acts furnish the rules; and their will is Government. Natives are wrong in regarding indigo planters as oppressors. Their oppressions cannot compare with those of Kirkwood and his confrères. If oppressions are necessary to the promotion of self-interest, the planters pledge themselves to resort to this means. Kirkwood and his brother officials also do the same, though they are sworn to put a stop to oppressions. The Resolution of the Lieutenant-Governor has created a thousand fold more surprise than the case of Mr. Kirkwood on which it is recorded. It brings out in strong relief a noteworthy trait in the character of Sir Richard Temple, namely, his efforts to please every body. He inflicted a very light punishment on Mr. Kirkwood, and has thus opened a door to the commission of highhanded proceedings, on the part of the subordinate officers, which cannot too soon be checked by Government.

28. Writing on the subject of the European complications on the Eastern Question, the same paper is gratified to notice that the leaders of English public opinion are opposed to adopt any coercive measures towards the Porte. It is the duty of England to lend a helping hand to Turkey in carrying out domestic reforms, while taking steps to secure immunity from oppressions to her Christians subjects. The editor deplors the neutral policy of England in the matter of Russian advance in Central Asia and her schemes of aggrandizement in Europe. All the great Powers should unite to check her aggressive spirit.

SOMA PRAKASH,
February 26th, 1877.
Circulation about 700.

29. A correspondent of the same paper, writing on the subject of the treatment of natives by the Anglo-Indians, observes that no perfect concord between the two races is possible, so long as there exists between them the relation of the conquered and the conqueror. Their interests must clash. The old Anglo-Indians were more kind to the natives because the latter were more devoted to them; a different state of things prevails at the present time, because natives aspire to be equal with their rulers and affect an independent bearing. In England, of course, Englishmen can afford to be kind and considerate towards any native who may happen to go there, as such conduct does not involve any great sacrifice on their part, and as the mere fact of leaving one's country and proceeding to a distant and strange land implies a devotion to the rulers and their country, which cannot but evoke some sympathy.

SOMA PRAKASH.

30. The *Utkal Dīpikā*, of the 25th February, remarks, with regret, that, in the English schools in Orissa, Sanskrit is not properly taught. This occasions extreme inconvenience, as Sanskrit is one of the subjects which a student must subsequently take up in his First Arts examination in the college. It would, therefore, be well, if in the higher classes of these schools, that standard be adopted in Sanskrit, which obtains in the zillah schools of Pooree and Cuttack. It is to be regretted that in the Balasore school the

UTKAL DĪPIKA,
February 25th, 1877.

arrangements for teaching this language are not satisfactory ; and the future progress of boys is thus hindered. We ask the authorities to introduce the Sanskrit standard into the Balasore school even this year. As it is not, however, probable that the boys in the first class will be able to acquire a sufficient proficiency within such a short time, they should be allowed to study the Uriya for this year only. Sanskrit should be introduced, however, into all other classes.

BEHAR BANDHU,
February 28th, 1877.
Circulation about 500.

31. The editor of the *Behár Bandhu* issues a small sheet announcing that the regular paper will not appear this week on account of the Holey festival. In lieu of the usual paper he presents his readers with a duodecimo pamphlet of 24 pages called "Instructions in Singing."

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,
The 3rd March 1877.

JOHN ROBINSON,
Government Bengali Translator.

*List of Native Newspapers received and examined for the Week ending
the 3rd March 1877.*

No.	Name.	Place of publication.	Monthly, weekly, or otherwise.	Date.
1	"Rungpore Dik Prakásh ...	Kákinia, Rungpore ...	Weekly ...	1st February 1877.
2	"Sádháraní" ...	Chinsurah ...	Ditto ...	18th ditto.
3	"Howrah Hitakarí" ...	Bethar, Howrah ...	Ditto ...	18th and 25th February 1877.
4	"Bhárat Sangskárák" ...	Calcutta ...	Ditto ...	19th February 1877.
5	"Sambád Bháskar" ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	19th ditto.
6	"Hindu Ranjiká" ...	Bauleah, Rajshahye ...	Ditto ...	21st ditto.
7	"Bhárat Mihir" ...	Mymensingh ...	Ditto ...	22nd ditto.
8	"Education Gazette" ...	Hooghly ...	Ditto ...	23rd ditto.
9	"Pratikár" ...	Berhampore ...	Ditto ...	23rd ditto.
10	"Moorsheadabad Patriká" ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	23rd ditto.
11	"Moorsheadabad Pratinidhi" ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	23rd ditto.
12	"Grámbártá Prakáshiká" ...	Comercolly ...	Ditto ...	24th ditto.
13	"Hindu Hitoishiní" ...	Dacca ...	Ditto ...	24th ditto.
14	"Dacca Prakásh" ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	25th ditto.
15	"Soma Prakásh" ...	Bhowanipore ...	Ditto ...	26th ditto.
16	"Sulabha Samáchar" ...	Calcutta ...	Ditto ...	27th ditto.
17	"Utkal Dípiká" ...	Balasore ...	Ditto ...	25th ditto.
18	"Balasore Sambád Báhiká" ...	Ditto ...	Bi-monthly ...	26th ditto.
19	"Samáchar Chandriká" ...	Calcutta ...	Daily ...	23rd February & 1st March 1877.
20	"SambádPurnachandrodaya" ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	27th ditto to 2nd ditto.
21	"Sambád Prabhákar" ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	17th to 27th February 1877.
22	"Jám-Jahán-numá" (in Persian.)	Ditto ...	Weekly ...	23rd February 1877.
23	"Urdu Guide" (in Urdu) ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	24th ditto.
24	"Behár Bandhu" (in Hindi)	Bankipore, Patna ...	Ditto ...	28th ditto.

Bengal Secretariat Press.